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An hour at his workshop was an unusual pleasure, both for the scientific man as well as the ordinary individual, and no one was ever turned away.

His love for the best literature was intense. Shakespeare and the poets were his especial favorites, and, endowed with a remarkably retentive memory, he could quote from them almost indefinitely.

To him death was the inevitable sequel of life, the gate to be opened by a kind and all-wise Providence, and so without fear he met the future.

To make the most superb lenses, in which every slender ray of light shall be forced to bring its message of stellar history to a focal point, and to see these lenses steadily reach a size only considered possible with each successive achievement, — this was the ambition of Alvan Graham Clark, and in him it found complete fulfilment.

OLIVER C. WENDELL.

ALONZO SMITH KIMBALL.

DOCTOR ALONZO S. KIMBALL, who was for a quarter of a century Professor of Physics in the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was born at Centre Harbor, New Hampshire, in 1843. He was prepared for college at New Hampton Academy, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1866. In 1871, he was called to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which had just graduated its first class. He organized the department of Physics, and the Institute was among the first in the country to provide systematic instruction in a physical laboratory. After seven or eight years of great activity and usefulness, shown alike in the development of the important department of which he had charge and in a series of valuable original contributions to physical science, he was, in 1879, attacked by a painful disease, which, in spite of the highest medical skill in both this country and Europe, proved to be incurable, and from the effects of which he died on December 2, 1897. Notwithstanding the steady progress of a malady which entailed nearly continuous suffering, Professor Kimball through all of these years discharged the constantly increasing duties of his position to the great satisfaction of the officers of the Institute and of his hundreds of pupils, to whom his life and work were always inspiring. In addition to his regular work in Worcester he was for several years a lecturer at Mount Holyoke College, of which institution he was also for many years and at the time of his death a trustee. While the Salisbury Laboratories of the Polytechnic Institute were being built, he spent a year in Europe, engaged in the study of the best European establishments, and in selecting apparatus for the better equipment of the new building to which his department was to be transferred. While there he suffered from a more than usually acute attack, and submitted to a difficult and dangerous surgical operation which it was hoped might lead to a permanent recovery. Only temporary relief followed, however, and within the past five or six years several similar operations were performed with the same result. His work in the lecture room and laboratory was not seriously interrupted, although carried on under conditions that would have made it impossible with most men. When, ten or fifteen years ago, the creation of a new branch of Engineering began, Professor Kimball was not slow to appreciate its importance, and the Institute was among the first schools of applied science to offer a course in Electricity, with ample equipment of electrical machinery and other appliances necessary to its success. The management and development of this course, along with the course in pure physics, remained with him until about two years ago, when its magnitude had increased so greatly that it became necessary to set off the Electrical Engineering as a separate department, with a special Professor at its head. With lessened responsibility, his enthusiasm and for a time his activity greatly increased, but his enjoyment of the new conditions was unfortunately of short duration.

Professor Kimball was uncommonly skilful in experiment, possessing originality in design, and his work was done with that sense of refinement and precision which is essential to original research. Between the years 1875 and 1880, he published in various scientific journals a series of papers, each the result of wisely planned and carefully conducted experiment, and all of much value. The first was on "Sliding Friction," published in the American Journal of Science, March, 1876. It marked the beginning of an important investigation of the general subject of friction, the results of which were published in subsequent numbers of the same journal, in Van Nostrand's Engineering Magazine, and elsewhere. In these papers he shows that friction between sliding surfaces is independent of neither velocity nor pressure, experiment pointing to the existence of a maximum coefficient of friction depending on both velocity and pressure. During these years there were also other papers on the influence of temper upon the physical properties of steel, the effect of magnetization on the physical properties of iron, etc. There was also prepared and printed a small treatise on Thermodynamics, arranged especially for the use of his pupils, exhibiting much originality and clearness in method of presentation. In later years occasional publications were made of original investigations, which he was able to undertake at intervals in spite of the progress of the disease from which he was continually suffering. Among these was one on the influence of magnetic stress upon the capacity of an electric condenser, published in the Proceedings of this Academy, Volume XXI., page 193.

From the quality of Professor Kimball's work during this period, there can be little doubt that he would have achieved marked distinction in his chosen field but for the failure of his health, which he never recovered. From 1879 to his death, a period of nearly twenty years, his fight was against odds that must long ago have defeated any one endowed with only the average human courage and tenacity of purpose. Conscientiously discharging every duty that the day brought, he had little energy left for research work, although he published occasional papers, and was always anxious to utilize any temporary increment of vitality in that way. Professor Kimball was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on May 27, 1884, but, although a member of numerous scientific societies, he was rarely seen at their meetings, his long illness thus standing in the way of those intimate personal and social relations with his confreres for which he was by nature so admirably fitted. His manner was charming, his good nature unceasing, and his instincts were fine and noble.

To those with whom he was associated in work, or who were otherwise privileged to know him intimately, his prolonged but splendidly heroic struggle with a fatal disease, together with the uniformly high standard of performance which that struggle did not sensibly affect, will ever remain an inspiring example of the best of human qualities.

T. C. MENDENHALL.

Other notices are unavoidably postponed.

Three Resident Fellows have resigned, one has been dropped, and the Academy has received an accession of nine Resident Fellows, six Associate Fellows, and eight Foreign Honorary Members.

The roll of the Academy, corrected to date, includes the names of 191 Resident Fellows, 96 Associate Fellows, and 66 Foreign Honorary Members.

BOSTON, May 11, 1898.